A. A. Phelps to A. C. Burnap
Boston Jan 12. 1837

8

Dear Brother Burnap

You will see in the Liberator of this week an article headed "Watchman what of the night", charging somebody, ~~with~~ clergymen of course, with sundry plots, seditions &c. &c. The article as a whole is a base misrepresentation of the facts in the case. The whole project, so far as the paper is concerned, is set forth in the resolutions adopted at the meeting of the Worcester North Division Society, which you will also find in the same paper. And as to a change in the Board of the State Society, no change has, to my knowledge, been thought of, which should discard such men, as are named, in the article in question. The only change that has been thought of has been one which, while it should retain those men, would also give each of the religious denominations a fair representation in the Board. Such a representation they have not now. And even this change has, so far as I know, only been thought of, (~~not~~ there having been no plotting with a view to carry it into effect) as a thing that would commend itself at once, to the good sense of all parties, as proper & right. It is obvious however from the article in question that Garrison means that we shall have the Liberator, the whole

Liberator, nothing but the Liberator, & that the whole power of the present state society shall be in the hands of men who will allow him to wield it just as he pleases. We must then have a battle with him at the annual meeting. And I write this to you that you may look at the measure proposed in the Resolutions of Worcester Co. Meeting, at the article in the Liberator, & be on hand at the annual meeting, with brother Simonds & other lay brethren of your society, to take such action in the case as you may judge proper & right. The paper is the great measure - that has the approbation of Stanton, St. Clair, Torrey, Rose, Russell, myself & others. It ought in my judgment to go, not as an opposition to the Liberator, but as an independent matter demanded by the wants of your cause, in this state, at this time. — Whatever may be your views in regard to these matters, do not fail to be at the county meeting, on the 22d, at Cambridgeport, & at the State meeting here on the 23d.

Yours truly

A. A. Phelps.

MS. A. 21.9 Pt. 1 .9

Mr. Burnap,

Lowell,

Mass.